

REMARKS

The objection to the drawing is traversed by amendment of the specification above to provide the reference characters already in the drawing.

A fresh Abstract is attached and limited to fewer than 150 words as required.

Non-narrowing amendments, including new claims taken from claims 1 and 4, are made to the claims to attend to the objections and rejections. Because the amendments are non-narrowing, no Festo-like limitations arise even from amendments responsive to statutory rejections.

The rejection under 35 USC 102 for anticipation by the cited Sprakel, et al. patent is traversed by the disclosure of the patent at column 4, lines 54 -55:

The blind hole 15 of the valve piston 6 is sealed, by a bursting disk 23, against a rearward clear space 24 of the

Further the bursting disk (23) has been placed against the piston (6) between the piston and the spring (26). This means that the bursting disk (23) moves with the piston (6) and the bursting disk (23) is in connection with the piston (6) all the time. Moreover, the piston (6) does not support the bursting disk (23) at all over the area of the blind bore hole (15).

Thus, as described at column 6, lines 1-14:

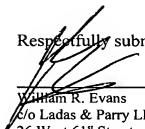
6

The drop in pressure in the supply pipe system, associated with the issue of extinguishing fluid, is detected by the monitoring and control system (not shown). Subsequently the said monitoring and control system transmits a control signal to the pressure generator 28 which subsequently increases the pressure of the extinguishing fluid within the supply pipe system again. As soon as the pressure within the supply pipe system reaches a defined limit value, for example 40 bar, the bursting disks 23 burst on these fire extinguishing nozzle-heads where the glass vials 14 had not been destroyed when the fire started. Subsequently, extinguishing fluid reaches the retainer 3 by way of the second connecting channel 25, the blind bore hole 15, the through-bore hole 16 and the annular chamber 17; the extinguishing fluid then emanates from the fire extinguishing nozzles (not shown). From this moment onwards, all the fire extinguish-

Therefore, the Sprakel, et al patent neither discloses nor suggests a supporting element that, as claimed, can be moved between first position, where the supporting element supports the blocking element so that the blocking element cannot be ruptured even if the pressure difference is greater than a preset value, and a second position, where the supporting element does not so support the blocking element.

Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,



William R. Evans
c/o Ladas & Parry LLP
26 West 61st Street
New York, New York 10023
Reg. No. 25858
Tel. No. (212) 708-1930